



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

www.house.gov/matsui/

Robert T. Matsui

Serving California's 5th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, November 16, 2004

CONTACT: MATTHEW BECK
(202) 225-7165/(202) 225-0564

Matsui Statement on the Passing of Justice William Marutani

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Robert T. Matsui issued the following statement on the passing of the Honorable William M. Marutani:

“Justice Marutani was a leader in the struggle for equality, understanding and justice,” said Representative Robert T. Matsui. **“He dedicated his life’s work to make America a more tolerant, caring and just nation and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. Justice Marutani’s story is truly inspirational. Forced to live in an American internment camp as a teenager, he overcame many obstacles and rose up against a culture of ignorance to advance the cause of equality for all. Serving as a civil rights lawyer, he volunteered his counsel in landmark cases involving the desegregation of schools and the promotion of voting rights. Appointed to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians by President Jimmy Carter, Justice Marutani gave voice to the injustice of internment suffered by Japanese Americans during World War II and fought bravely for apology and redress for those hateful acts.”**

“Today we mourn the passing of a tremendous individual committed to the advancement of society and the quest for equality. While we reflect on his life and monumental achievements, we find comfort in the knowledge that his dream lives on in the minds and hearts of millions of Americans who carry the torch for future generations.”

###